

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

September 20, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

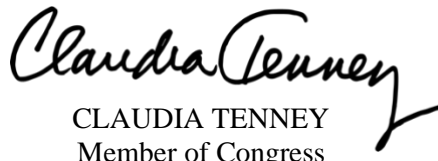
I welcomed your statement on September 18, 2022, during an interview with *60 Minutes* that, “the pandemic is over,” in reference of course to the COVID-19 pandemic. Most Americans have already recognized this fact, returning to school, work, church, and other normal daily activities. Americans have learned to live with the virus thanks to numerous vaccines and treatments as well as by individual risk assessments. Now, as the United States winds down its third calendar year under a COVID public health emergency (PHE), I write to you today urging you to act on your words: end the state of emergency.

Former Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) Alex Azar first issued a determination that a PHE exists on January 31, 2020, pursuant to section 319 of the Public Health Service Act. At the time, COVID-19 presented a clear threat to the American people, justifying the PHE. Doing so permitted the Trump administration to ensure the widespread availability of free COVID tests and vaccines and to take other actions as needed so that our country could meet the challenges of the moment.

However, with the end of the pandemic, the need for the PHE no longer exists. Even the White House’s top medical advisor, Dr. Anthony Fauci, has said that the virus likely will never be eradicated. Of course, the appropriate response, then, is to learn to live with and manage the virus, not to perpetuate a constant state of emergency and government control that allows our rights to be infringed upon. Instead of renewing the PHE, you should terminate it consistent with your assessment that the pandemic is over. The American people are returning to normal life. The Federal government must as well.

I, therefore, urge you to end the PHE. Should you choose to renew the PHE upon its expiration in October, I request an explanation for why this administration has determined such an extraordinary measure should be taken given your statement on the record that, “the pandemic is over.” I thank you in advance for your time and attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

  
CLAUDIA TENNEY  
Member of Congress